

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub A' 1. A method for making a molded article, wherein said article includes a substantially vertical peripheral wall portion and a transverse outer edge portion, comprising:

- (a) heating a sheet of plastic material having a mold side and an exposed side to a first temperature, said first temperature being consistent with forming said sheet of plastic material in a thermoforming process;
- (b) placing said mold side of said sheet of plastic material over said mold, said mold having a first surface for forming said substantially vertical peripheral wall portion and further having a second surface substantially perpendicular to said first surface for forming said outer edge portion;
- (c) applying a vacuum to said mold or compressed gas to said exposed side of said sheet of plastic material such that air pressure on said mold side is less than the air pressure on said exposed side;
- (d) forming a ridge along at least a part of said outer edge portion, said ridge being of a substantially uniform height;
- (e) cooling said sheet of plastic material to a second temperature, said second temperature being consistent with said sheet of plastic material retaining its molded shape;
- (f) releasing said vacuum from said mold or said compressed gas from said exposed side;
- (g) removing said sheet of plastic material from said mold; and

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- (h) cutting said sheet of plastic material along said ridge to release said article from said sheet.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (d) further includes forming said ridge about the entirety of said outer edge portion at a substantially coequal distance from said wall portion.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said mold includes a steel rule and said ridge is formed over said steel rule.

4. The method according to claim 2, wherein there is provided after step (h) a channel edge of a substantially uniform width about the periphery of said article.

5. An article made according to the method of claim 1.

6. An apparatus for thermoforming a molded article, wherein said article includes a substantially vertical peripheral wall portion and a transverse outer edge portion, comprising:

a mold having a first surface for forming said substantially vertical peripheral wall portion and further having a second surface substantially perpendicular to said first surface for forming said outer edge portion; and
means on said mold for forming a ridge along at least a part of said outer edge

portion, said ridge being of a substantially uniform height.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said mold is a male mold.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said means for forming said ridge comprises a steel rule.

9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said steel rule encompasses substantially all of said perimeter of said mold.

10. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said mold includes passageways for the passage of air.

11. A method for making a molded article, wherein said article includes an outer edge portion, comprising:

- (a) molding an article having an outer edge portion from plastic material in a mold, said outer edge portion having a ridge along at least a part of said outer edge portion, said ridge being of a substantially uniform height; and
- (b) cutting said article along said ridge such that said ridge defines the outer edge of said article.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein step (a) further includes molding said ridge about the entirety of said outer edge portion.

13. The method according to claim 11, wherein said mold includes a steel rule and said ridge is formed over said steel rule.

Added A³

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